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Letter dated 8 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

By order of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the attention of the Security Council, the following events that illustrate the carrying out by the Chadian authorities of their mission to protect civilians in eastern Chad, in accordance with their commitments as stipulated in Security Council resolution 1923 (2010).

1. At around 1400 hours on 6 June 2010, Hubert Blama (logistics coordinator for the non-governmental organization Oxfam and a British citizen), his colleague Frank Gontou and their driver were carjacked 60 metres from a restaurant called "Rose de Sable". Frank Gontou and the driver were freed by the kidnappers 70 kilometres away after having been robbed of their money and telephone equipment.

Having been notified of this incident, the regional administrative and military authorities ordered elements of the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) and the Garde nationale et nomade du Tchad to find them. The pursuit undertaken by those personnel led them to a point some 50 kilometres from Guéréda, a town located roughly 160 kilometres north-east of Abéché.

The defence and security forces were able to surround the area where the kidnappers had taken refuge and prevented them from crossing the border for nine days before launching the attack that permitted the third employee of Oxfam, the British citizen Hubert Blama, to be freed by the joint Chad-Sudan force on 15 June 2010. The kidnappers were arrested in Sarné and taken into custody.

In a communiqué issued on Wednesday, Oxfam welcomed the freeing of its employee and commended "all the parties involved, particularly the Government of Chad and members of the international community, for their efforts".

2. At around 1 a.m. on Sunday 27 June, a gang armed with assault rifles invaded the headquarters of the non-governmental organization Intermoon Oxfam in Koukou Angarana. The assailants took Miss Sandrine Robert, a French national, along with two vehicles, a computer and a portable telephone. Notified at around 2.15 a.m. by the Regional Chief of Security of the United Nations System, the Security Service of the Coordination nationale d'appui à la force internationale à l'est du Tchad (CONAFIT) immediately contacted the local authorities, including the General Secretary of the Governor of Sila, the Commissioner of DIS and the Legion

Commandant of the Gendarmerie. On the instructions of those authorities, elements of DIS immediately began to pursue the assailants.

At around 6.30 a.m., the Prefect of Goz-Beïda announced that the DIS agents had intercepted the criminals at the entrance to a village called Fagata, located 20 kilometres east of Koukou Angarana. During the skirmish with the security forces, the bandits left everything behind in order to escape. Miss Sandrine Robert was thus found safe and sound, but the two recovered vehicles had substantial damage.

3. Following these unfortunate events, several decisions were taken during a meeting between the non-governmental organizations and the Government on security issues for humanitarian workers:

- All encampments of non-governmental organizations must be surrounded with barbed wire;
- The encampments must be equipped with two-way radios for direct coordination with elements of DIS and the United Nations security system liaison officer;
- All suspicious persons having a negative attitude who are working for non-governmental organizations (support personnel or others) must be brought to the attention of the State security services.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmad **Allam-mi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative